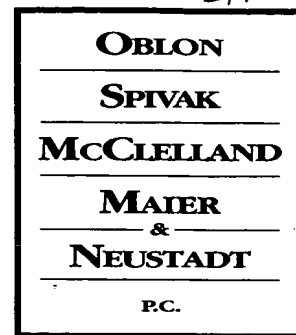




Docket No.: 243044US3

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22313



ATTORNEYS AT LAW

C. IRVIN McCLELLAND  
(703) 413-3000  
IMCCLELLAND@OBLON.COM

RE: Application Serial No.: 10/666,240  
Applicants: Shinji ASAMI, et al.  
Filing Date: September 22, 2003  
For: BINDING APPARATUS, PAPER PROCESSING  
APPARATUS AND IMAGE FORMING SYSTEM  
Group Art Unit: 2852  
Examiner:

SIR:

Attached hereto for filing are the following papers:

**STATUS REQUEST FOR FIRST OFFICE ACTION (in duplicate)**

Our check in the amount of \$0.00 is attached covering any required fees. In the event any variance exists between the amount enclosed and the Patent Office charges for filing the above-noted documents, including any fees required under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 for any necessary Extension of Time to make the filing of the attached documents timely, please charge or credit the difference to our Deposit Account No. 15-0030. Further, if these papers are not considered timely filed, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 for the necessary extension of time. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,  
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.

C. Irvin McClelland  
Registration No. 21,124

Customer Number  
**22850**

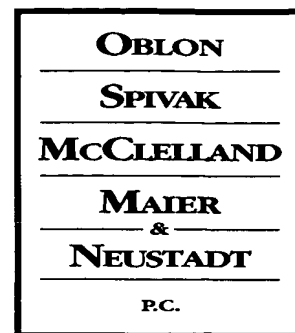
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Registration No. 34,423



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